Medicines under price control

4462. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medicines put under price control;

(b) whether Intra-Venous fluid has also been put under price control;

(c) whether it has come to Government's notice that the stockists arc charging high margins of more than 100% on this essential medicine which is used during operations and post operations; and

(d) if so the measures taken to bring this medicine under the drug price control order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) In the First Schedule of DPCO, 95, 76 bulk drugs have been kept under price control. Any formulation hnving any of these bulk drug also comes under price control.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter has been referred to the B1CP to undertake cost price study.

Expansion Programme in Fertilizer Sector

4463. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expansion programme in the fertilizer sector;

(b) by when the expansion will be completed; and

(c) the steps being taken to see that fertilizer demand of the country is adequately met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS: (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The details of the fertilizer projects under implementation in the country are indicated in the enclosed statement, *(see* below).

(c) In order to optimise the indigenous fertilizer production, an appropriate policy frame work has been put into place. The main elements of this frame work are as follows:

(i) The domestic urea industry is supported through the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme and freight subsidy. The expenditure on this account during 1996-97 was Rs. 4743 crore.

(ii) Assistance is provided to the fertilizer industry for securing linkages of feedstock, fuel and rail movement.

(iii) Liquid petroleum products used as feedstock and fuel in fertilizer plants are supplied at concessional prices.

(iv) As a part of Government's liberalisation policy, no industrial licence is now required for setting up a fertilizer plant.

(v) Investment in the fertilizer sector is encouraged, inter-alia, through concessions on supplies of capital goods for the fertilizer industry in the form of import duty exemption and deemed export benefits, as well as interest rate concession on long-term loans raised by fertilizer units.

(vi) The rate of special concession on indigenously manufactured DAP, which was Rs. 1000 per tonne prior to 6.7.96 has progressively been enhanced to RS. 3750- w.e.f. 1.4.97. A proportionate increase in the rate of concession has been allowed in respect of other complex fertilizers. The rate of special concession on SSP has been raised from Rs. 340/- - per tonne to Rs. 600/-- per tonne. The Central public/Cooperative sector fertilizer units have adopted the following strategy to increase fertilizer production to meet the growing demand of fertilizer in the country:

(i) Expansion / retrofitting / re-vamping of existing fertilizer plants; (ii) Overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas